



City of Loma Linda Official Report

Floyd Petersen, Mayor
Karen Hansberger, Mayor pro tempore
Robert Christman, Councilmember
Stan Brauer, Councilmember
Robert Ziprick, Councilmember

COUNCIL AGENDA: September 23, 2003
TO: City Council
FROM: Dennis R. Halloway, City Manager
SUBJECT: Interim Land Use Policy

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council adopt a policy to allow interim uses of public property for community benefit.

ANALYSIS

The Loma Linda Community Development Department indicated that the interim land use policy could be implemented through the Loma Linda Municipal Code Section 17.16.020 entitled Land Use Clarification.

BACKGROUND

The approval of this policy is one way to increase various community benefits through the conversion of vacant lots. The policy recommends that such lots be dedicated to community gardens and recreational areas because they promote healthy, active living for residents, and also demonstrates the City's commitment to promoting positive aspects of the community that enhance the quality of life of community members.

In May 2002, a community garden was established in the North Central Neighborhood on public land that was previously vacant. The City of Loma Linda has established the Community Garden that provides City beautification, promotion of healthy eating and physical activity, provision of sustainable agriculture, promotion of food security, promotion of community involvement, and a location for the Tool Lending Library. Currently, the Loma Linda Community Garden has a capacity of 54 garden plots 38 of which are being used by families, students, individual gardeners, and a Cub Scout troop, for a total of 45 community gardeners. Monitoring of the garden includes an evaluation component through pre and post surveys of gardeners and community members. The data to date show that the Community Garden participants have increased their fruit and vegetable consumption, physical activity, and their overall feeling of health and wellness as a direct result of gardening and the educational activities related to the garden.

AGENDA ITEM 8

The proposed policy was developed through a community-based process that includes input from, and review by, the North Central Neighborhood Committee (NCNC), Loma Linda University School of Public Health faculty and students, Loma Linda City staff, community gardeners, and community members. Feedback was used to determine the community benefits provided by the Loma Linda Community Garden/Tool Lending Library to local residents, community groups, and the City.

The recommended policy builds on: the success of the existing garden; community input on a land-use strategy to promote and protect community livability; and the City's efforts to reduce the number of vacant lots that often become overgrown with weeds, illegal dumping and/or other types of public nuisances. Recognizing that a policy approach to individual and community health promotion confers significant benefit on the population at large, and that in-kind/financial and human resources in the city/community could be leveraged to support the implementation and sustainability of community gardens Citywide, the interim land use policy is recommended for adoption by City Council.

CITY OF LOMA LINDA

LAND USE POLICY

SUBJECT: Interim Land Use Policy

OBJECTIVE

To support the interim uses of the City and the Redevelopment Agency owned properties for community gardens and recreation areas that advocate promotion of healthy, active living for Loma Linda residents, as well as City beautification.

DEFINITION/SCOPE

- To provide interim use of public lands for community benefit and betterment
- Interim is defined as the time between uses permitted within the zone district of a particular property

POLICY

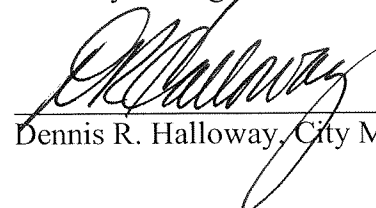
The policy builds on: the success of the existing garden located at 25340 Van Leuven Street; community input on a land-use strategy to promote and protect community livability; and the City's efforts to reduce the number of vacant lots that often become overgrown with weeds, and illegal dumping or other types of public nuisances.

The designated land will be used to:

- Enhance physical activity and improve healthier nutrition opportunities
- Increase community beautification, safety and neighborhood preservation
- Increase community involvement and partnerships

AUTHORITY/RESPONSIBILITY

The City Manager will identify property as well as designate interim usage.



Dennis R. Halloway, City Manager

Date